

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 USIA-15 /030 W  
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R 110840Z DEC 74  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1965

UNCLAS COLOMBO 3424

E.O. 11652 NA  
TAGS: OEXC, CE  
SUBJ: MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCES FOR FULBRIGHT - HAYS GRANTEES

FOR CU/BFS

REF: STATE A-7897

1. FOLLOWING ARE REPLIES TO QUESTIONS REFAIR AFTER  
REVIEW WITH SOME AMERICAN GRANTEES OF THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION  
UNDER CURRENT CONDITIONS IN SRI LANKA:

2. (1) AND (2): MAITENANCE ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN GRANTEES  
IN SRI LANKA HAVE BEEN BASED SINCE 1964 ON STRUCTURE  
OF FSO ALLOWANCES AND SINCE 1969 HAVE BEEN REVISED IN STEP  
WITH COST OF LIVING INCREASES. USEF/SL PROGRAM PROPOSALS  
HAVE GENERALLY INCLUDED AN APPROXIMATE 5 TO 10 PERCENT INCREASE  
ALMOST ANNUALLY, RESULTING IN ABOUT AT 25 PERCENT OVER-ALL  
INCREASE IN MAINTENANDE ALLOWANCES OVER PAST FIVE YEARS.  
LAST INCREASE WAS MADE IN 1973. 1975 PROGRAM PROPOSAL,  
EFFECTIVE FOR 75/76, CALLS FOR FURTHER 9.5 PERCENT HILE.

3. UNTIL THIS YEAR AMERICAN GRANTEES HAVE BEEN REASONABLY  
SATISFIED WITH ALLOWANCE, WHICH BECAUSE HIGHER THAN LOCAL  
SALARY BSE PERMITTED THEM PARTLY TO ABSORB RISING EXPENSES.  
THIS ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY IN LAST SIX MONTHS,  
WITH GRANTEES ARGUING THAT ALLOWANCES ARE INADEQUATE TO  
MEET NEEDS. AMERICANS INCUR EXPENSES NOT NROMALLY BORNE BY  
CEYLONENE PARTICULARLY FOR TRAVEL, TRANSPORTATION, AND  
HOUSING, AREAS IN WHICH LOCAL COSTS HAVE SOARED.

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4. (4), (5), (6): 1975/76 PROGRAM PROPOSAL PROJECTS AN APPROXIMATE INCREASE OF 9.5 PERCENT IN ALLOWANCES FOR AMERICAN GRANTEES, AND USEF/SL DOES NOT PROPOSE GOING BEYOND THIS LEVEL, THOUGH IT MAY NOT FULLY MEET RISING COSTS. OUR CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE IN OUIS INSTANCE, AND TOWARD PROPOSED DOLLAR INCREASE FOR FOREIGN GRANTEES IN UNITED STATES, SPRINGS FROM A CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH INCREASES FOR OVER-ALL PROGRAM LEVEL. NEED OF COL ADJUSTMENTS IS TANGIBLE BUT AT SAME TIME NUMBER OF GRANTS FOR SRI LANKA IS ALREADY AT IRREDUCIBLE MINIMUM. WE WOULD NOT WANT TO SEE ANY INCREASE IN STIPENDS AT COST OF CUTTING NUMBER OF GRANTS. PARTICIPANTS WOULD PREFER HAVE HARD TIME MAKING ENDS MEET THAN FOREGO FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES. GIVEN OVER-ALL CONTRACTION IS SUCH OPPORTUNITIES, ESPECIALLY FOR CEYLONSE TO STUDY IN UNITED STATES OR WEST AS WHOLE, WE CONCUR IN THEIR VIEW. IF STIPEND INCREASES TO COMPENSATE FOR COST OF LIVING INCREASES CAN BE MADE WITHOUT REDUCING NUMBER OF GRANTS, WE WOULD WELCOME THEM.

5. (7): ANSWER PROVIDED IN POINTS (1) AND (2).

BYRNE

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